

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE.

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXII, Number 3

Chicago, Illinois

November 2001



## 605th REGULAR MEETING



**KATHLEEN ERNST ON "TOO AFRAID TO CRY: CIVILIANS IN THE ANTIETAM CAMPAIGN"**



**Friday, November 9**



**HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA  
350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET**

*Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.*

*Dinner at 6:30 p.m.*

**\$30 - Members    \$35 - Nonmembers**

*Entrée:*

*Woodland Chicken or  
Catch of the Day*



### PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, November 5**, by calling registrar Carole Le Claire at 847-698-1438.

People who attend without having made a reservation will pay a \$5 walk-in charge. If you make a reservation and then find you cannot attend, please call to cancel or you will be billed for a dinner.

**PARKING:** If you are driving and coming from the south, turn left into the Mart Plaza lot just after crossing the river on Orleans. From the north, turn right from Orleans on Hubbard, left on Kingsbury, right on Kinzie, and left into the Mart Plaza lot. Parking is \$7 with a validated parking sticker.

Over the next few months, due to street renovations, the bridge south of the hotel will be closed. We apologize for this inconvenience.

## KATHLEEN ERNST

- on -

### "Too Afraid to Cry: Civilians in the Antietam Campaign"

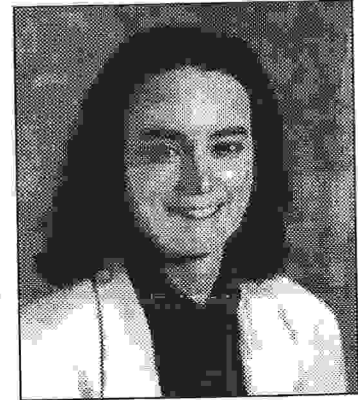
#### BLOODIEST DAY OF CIVIL WAR

BY BARBARA HUGHETT

The Battle of Antietam Creek, which unfolded on September 17, 1862, was the single bloodiest day of the American Civil War. By best counts more than twenty-three thousand men were dead, wounded, or missing by nightfall. Until the tragic events of this past September 11th, September 17, 1862, was the single bloodiest day in terms of American deaths.

The military conflict which took place at Sharpsburg is a critical chapter in American history. But Civil War history is more than a schematic of armies and tactics. Left to confront that smoldering landscape at Antietam were the men, women, and children who made their homes in the village and surrounding farms.

These citizens of Sharpsburg, in Maryland's Washington County, were ordinary people caught in extraordinary circumstances. The war exploded on their thresholds and the wake from that explosion rippled across the divided nation. On November 9, Kathleen Ernst will address The Round Table; her topic, and the title of her book, is "Too Afraid to Cry: Civilians in the Antietam Campaign."



Kathleen Ernst

Kathleen Ernst, a social historian and educator, holds a masters degree in history education and writing from Antioch University and served for twelve years as curator of education with the State Historical Society of Wisconsin at Old World Wisconsin. She currently works part-time producing instructional video programs for Wisconsin Public Television. She also teaches courses at the Civil War Institute at Carroll College, writes for children and adults, and provides consultant services to historic sites and schools.

*Too Afraid to Cry: Civilians in the Antietam Campaign* was an alternate selection

of the History Book Club. Her work for children includes a series of historical novels about the Civil War (*The Night Riders of Harpers Ferry*, *The Bravest Girl in Sharpsburg*, *Retreat from Gettysburg*, and the forthcoming

*Ghosts of Vicksburg*) and three historical mysteries. *Retreat from Gettysburg* won the Arthur Tofte Juvenile Fiction Award in 2001, and one of her mysteries was nominated for the Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best Children's Mystery in 2001 by the Mystery Writers of America.



## THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940  
601 South La Salle Building, Suite C-817  
Chicago, Illinois 60605  
Phone: 847-698-1438  
www.thecwrt.org

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The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Membership Committee, 601 South LaSalle Building, Suite C-817, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

## BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION UPDATE

BY MARY MUNSELL ABROE

**Battlefield Preservation Fund Will Make Disbursements:** At its October meeting, the Battlefield Preservation Fund committee decided to assist the following, worthwhile projects and organizations: \$1000 membership dues to the Civil War Preservation Trust; \$750 membership dues to the Kernstown Battlefield Association; \$500 to Save the Franklin Battlefield, Inc. (in support of a reenactors' march that is raising funds to help retire the debt on the three-plus acre Collins' Farm in the heart of the battlefield); and \$250 to the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association (in support of its purchase of the historic Daniel Lady Farm). The committee welcomes input and suggestions from CWRT members concerning potential donations; please contact Mary Abroe, Roger Bohn, Larry Gibbs, Rob Girardi, Nancy Jacobs, Marshall Krolick, or Steve Stewart.

### Ted Zimmerman Wins Kernstown Print:

The drawing for a Keith Rocco print, entitled "We Have Got Them Started. Come on! Come on! The Union Breakthrough at Kernstown: March 23, 1862," was held at our October Nevins-Freeman meeting, and the winner was member Ted Zimmerman. Congratulations to Ted and thanks again to Bob Carlson, who commissioned the original and so made this drawing possible. Thanks also to those who participated in the drawing, which raised \$450 for our Battlefield Preservation Fund.

**\$11 Million for Battlefield Purchases Is Included in Interior Appropriations for 2002:** The following excerpt is quoted from the November 2001 issue of the *Civil War News*:

"The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) praised House and Senate conferees for including a provision in the Fiscal Year 2002 Interior Appropriations Act (H.R. 2217) for Civil War battlefield preservation. The funding bill allocates \$11 million over three years for a competitive grant program to save endangered Civil War battlefields.

"We are ecstatic," remarked CWPT President James Lighthizer. "This money will allow us to preserve thousands of acres of historic land that would otherwise be lost to urban sprawl."

According to Trust spokesman James Campi, the provision, often referred to as the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program, is similar to a program established by Congress and the Department of the Interior in FY 1999. The program targets priority Civil War sites outside National Park Service (NPS) boundaries. Grants from the program are

awarded by the American Battlefield Protection Program, an arm of the NPS.

The \$11 million would be for grants [that constitute] not more than 50 percent of the total cost of acquiring battle land identified by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. The funds would be awarded under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.

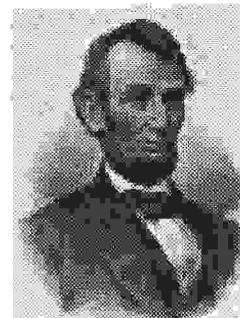
"In the past three years, the program has saved more than 3,600 acres of hallowed ground in 12 states, said Campi. Based on this record of success, he said the FY 2002 program has enjoyed unprecedented bipartisan support.

...The preservation funds are part of the Interior Department budget of more than \$18 billion which includes National Park Service budgets. Among allocations of Civil War interest are \$1.75 million for Fort Sumter; \$2 million for Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park; \$1.2 million for the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation for land acquisition and \$500,000 for administration; \$2.5 million to restore the Gettysburg Cyclorama; and \$.5 million for Vicksburg..."

### ITEMS

### ★ OF INTEREST ★

"Lincoln and the Legacy of Freedom" is the theme of the Fifth Annual Lincoln Forum Symposium on November 16-18 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Garry Wills, the winner of the 2001 Richard Nelson Current Award, will give the keynote address. Other speakers and panel participants include Lerone Bennett, Jr., John Y. Simon, Michael Vornberg, William Lee Miller, Barry Schwartz, Craig Symonds, John Marszalek, Edna Greene Medford, Gabor Boritt, and the chair and co-chair of the Forum, Judge Frank J. Williams and Harold Holzer. For more information, see [www.thelincolnforum.org](http://www.thelincolnforum.org) or contact Annette Westerby at [anetwest@uswest.net](mailto:anetwest@uswest.net) or 303-721-6681.



## OCTOBER MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

On October 12, Brooks Davis, Honorary Life member and former president, received the prestigious Nevins-Freeman Award, the highest honor presented by this organization. Before 81 members and guests present at the 604th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago, Davis gave an interesting presentation entitled "Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln: Friendly Enemies?"

A member of this Round Table since 1958, Davis proclaimed, "Not enough attention has been paid to the politics of the Civil War!" He tried to correct this lack of emphasis with a speech comparing and contrasting the lives and careers of two of the most famous Illinoisans—Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas.

Lincoln and Douglas met in 1834 in the then state capital of Vandalia. Lincoln lived in New Salem village from 1831 to 1837, while Douglas migrated to Illinois in 1833. He arrived in Jacksonville, Illinois, with \$1.25 in his pocket. These men were very different physically. Lincoln, at 6 feet, 4 inches, towered over Douglas, who was 5 feet, four inches.

Stephen Douglas possessed a strong jaw and bushy brown hair; Lincoln was gangly with high cheekbones and unruly hair. Lincoln was self-educated, while Douglas was formally educated. Douglas had a fiery, resonant voice, while Lincoln's was high-pitched. Lincoln appeared awkward, while Douglas was imposing and refined. Lincoln gained notice gradually, while Douglas had a meteoric rise to national prominence, becoming a judge in 1841.

Both men were lawyers and were adversaries in twenty-eight legal cases. Douglas won ten of these and Lincoln nine; the remainder were dismissed or had unknown verdicts. They both had been linked romantically to Mary Todd, but Lincoln married her. Davis stated that Douglas was "more interested in politics than in the pursuit of Mary. However, Lincoln was smitten with Mary. Once when he went to a dance, Lincoln said he wanted to dance with Mary 'in the worst way'—and he did!"

Abraham Lincoln served one term as a member of the House of Representatives from 1847-1849. His political career suffered a setback after he made a speech about the origins of the Mexican War—a very popular war that Lincoln was against. He felt that the conflict with Mexico had started on Mexican soil; therefore U.S. involvement in the war was illegal. His "spot resolution" speech was rejected by his Illinois constituency, and he

did not win another election until the 1860 presidential election. Meanwhile, Douglas, as a U.S. senator, became a national celebrity with his negotiations for the passage of the Compromise of 1850.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 further increased national recognition of Douglas, but this law also brought Lincoln back into the political limelight. Stephen Douglas advocated "popular sovereignty"—which meant that the majority of the people within a new territory should determine whether it would embrace freedom or slavery. Davis added, "Douglas thought that northern expansion and the growth of railroads were at stake." Lincoln campaigned against the Kansas-Nebraska Act because he felt that slavery should not extend into any territory.

Lincoln and Douglas are forever linked together due to their famous seven debates during the 1858 race for U.S. senator from Illinois. Douglas, although more famous than Lincoln and an incumbent senator, felt that he had to accept Lincoln's challenge for a series of debates to avoid charges of cowardice.

Perhaps the key moment in the debates came during the second debate, at Freeport, Illinois, when Lincoln posed this question to Douglas: Did Douglas support the Kansas-Nebraska Act or the 1857 *Dred Scott* Supreme Court decision, which stated that slavery could exist in any territory. Attempting to neutralize the trap that Lincoln had set for him, Douglas held that the people could keep slavery out of the territories—in spite of the *Dred Scott* case, simply by withholding the protection of the local law. Douglas's reply became known as the Freeport Doctrine, and Lincoln had put Douglas on the defensive. These seven debates, followed by the national publicity they engendered, pushed Lincoln's name into national prominence.

According to Davis, the intense rivalry in the courtroom or on the political stump did not deter the friendship between Douglas and Lincoln. In 1860, Lincoln became the nominee of a united Republican party, while Douglas became the standard bearer of a fragmented northern Democratic party. Douglas accepted the nomination at the terrible price of taxing his waning health.

Realizing that his chances of winning the presidency were gone, Douglas campaigned on the idea that the Union must be preserved and warned the South of the dangers of the impending crisis. Running on a slogan of "Union and Peace," he received 25% of the popular vote to 40% for Lincoln, with the remaining votes split between minor party

candidates John Breckinridge and John Bell. In the decisive Electoral College, Douglas placed fourth, with only 12 votes to Lincoln's 180.

After the election, Stephen Douglas made a last appeal to the South for reconciliation—again endangering his fragile health. Lincoln deeply mourned the loss of his friend Douglas when he died on June 3, 1861. Davis concluded, "The good feelings between these two men must not be exaggerated, but these 'friendly enemies' were indeed friends at the time of Douglas's death."

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Round Table member Larry Hewitt gave a presentation last month at Louisiana State University at a meeting jointly sponsored by the LSU History Department and the Baton Rouge Civil War Round Table. His program consisted of a slide presentation of Civil War era photographs of the Port Hudson battlefield.

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Petersburg National Battlefield, which recently marked its 75th anniversary, was the site of a History Channel filming about the Battle of the Crater. As part of a new series entitled "Civil War Combat," Greystone Communication Group filmed a special segment to be aired next year.



The McHenry County Civil War Round Table will hold its Third Annual Autumn Festival, "Spirits of the Civil War," at the McHenry Country Club on November 3 from 6:00-10:00 p.m. A program of ghostly Civil War encounters will be featured. Proceeds will assist the history scholarship program of that Round Table. For information, call Ed Wilt (815-385-5141).

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The Ivy Mountain Battlefield Monument, located in a small park near Pikeville, Kentucky, will be dedicated on November 10. The ceremony will mark the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Ivy Mountain, fought on November 8, 1861.